

# SSA VR Cost Reimbursement and Ticket to Work

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# Areas to be Covered

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- The Pre July 21, 2008 regulation Ticket Program and VR Reimbursement Programs
- Key Changes with Regulations
- Ticket Process
- Revenue potential of Ticket program
- New partnership options
- Provider Resources

# U.S. General Accounting Office Findings

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- Less than 1% of SSDI and SSI beneficiaries attain paid employment enabling them to be self-sufficient
- One-third of the people who leave the rolls return in 3 years
- In one half of one percent of those individuals were to attain self-supporting employment, savings would total \$3.5 billion

# Key Changes with New Regulations as of July 21, 2008

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- Makes significant improvement to Ticket program payment options
- De-links Ticket participation with VR cost reimbursement program. Ticket assignment no longer necessary.
- Allows VR to partner with Employment Networks so VR can bill cost reimbursement and the Employment Network can receive some (not all) Ticket payments "Partnership Plus"
- SSA will pay more money for employment outcomes earlier in process.

# What is the VR Cost Reimbursement System?

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- Pre-dates Ticket Program but blended into Ticket Program by SSA
- Only available to State VR programs
- VR receives reimbursement for costs, if beneficiary works nine months above SGA (\$980 per month in 2009).
- Generally employment at SGA has to start within 12 months of case closure
- VR can bill for actual case costs plus a monthly tracking and administrative fee.

# What is an Employment Network?

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Any agency who enters into a contract with SSA to assume responsibility for the coordination and delivery of appropriate employment, employment activities, and other support services under the Ticket to Work Program.

# New SVR Status

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State VR agencies will have two options:

- EN Payment = Assign Ticket
- Traditional Cost Reimbursement = In Use-SVR
  - Either way, the Ticket-holder receives protection from a Continuing Disability Review (CDR)

# Timely Progress Review

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Maximus will conduct a progress review at the conclusion of every 12 months of

- Ticket use or
- In-use SVR Status

To determine if a beneficiary is making the expected progress toward self-sufficiency (Self-supporting employment)



# Summary of Ticket Process

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- SSA Recipient between age of 18-64 receives Ticket in the mail.
- Individual can use their Ticket with a State VR Agency or an EN
- Employment Plan is developed and consumer signs their Ticket by completing the SSA 1365.

# Payment Options

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- VR Agencies have Cost Reimbursement Option
- Ticket Options are
  - Outcome – where cash benefits end completely and \$22,620 to \$23,652 can be paid out
  - Milestones/Outcome – Where payments can be made earlier in process but total payments \$20,299 to 21,299 (handout provided)

# Conditions with Tickets

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- ENs can choose between Outcome and Milestone/Outcome method on their annual anniversary
- VR Agencies can choose on a case by case basis between Ticket Payment or Cost Reimbursement.

# New Ticket Outcome-Milestone System Phase One

<b>Earnings Milestones</b>	<b>Payment SSI</b>	<b>Payment SSDI</b>
\$350 for one month	\$1,177	\$1,177
\$700 for three months	\$1,177	\$1,177
\$700 for six months	\$1,177	\$1,177
\$700 for nine months	\$1,177	\$1,177
<b>Total Phase 1 Milestones</b>	<b>\$4,708</b>	<b>\$4,708</b>

# New Ticket Outcome-Milestone System Phase Two

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## Phase Two

### ■ Gross earnings \$980 per month

- SSDI Milestone Payment \$353 per month for eleven months for \$3,883 total
- SSI Milestone Payment \$203 per month for eighteen months for \$3,654 Total

# New Ticket Outcome-Milestone System Phase Three

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- Earnings above \$980 per month  
and SSI/SSDI cash benefit at  
zero
  - SSDI \$353 per month for 36 months for a total of \$12,708
  - SSI \$203 per month for 60 months for a total of \$12,180

# Options in working with Providers

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There are three options.

- Option One: "Partnership Plus"
- Option Two: SD VR assigns Ticket and splits Ticket payments for joint customers
- Option Three: Provider is EN; assigns the Ticket; provides the services directly to consumer; and can be a joint case with VR for guidance and Counseling

## Option One: Partnership Plus

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- VR opens a case and bills for cost reimbursement.
- The provider must be an EN
- The provider accepts Ticket assignment
- SSA allows the provider to bill for Phase II and Phase III milestone outcomes
- SSA will not pay Phase I milestones for Partnership Plus cases (Because they are reimbursing VR for upfront payments).



## Option Two: Split of Ticket Payments

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- VR accepts Ticket assignment
- VR can bill for Phase I, II and III payments
- VR takes 100% of Milestones 1 & 2 of Phase I.
- VR splits remaining payments 50/50 with the Providers.
- Payments to providers can be processed on a quarterly basis.

## Option Three: Provider Assigns Ticket

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- Provider is approved EN
- EN works with consumer to develop Plan and assigns Ticket to Provider
- Consumer provides the services at their cost and collects the reimbursement directly
- Consumer can be a joint case of EN and VR

# Option Two is being Recommended

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- Promotes partnership between VR and Providers
- Will bring in more money into SD for Provider and VR
- Promotes Increased earnings for Consumers
- Promotes continued employment for consumer

# Actual Ticket Cases Submitted

				Wage \$	Est \$	Ticket Income		
	Provider	CMID	Case Cost	Monthl y	Ticket	DRS	Provider	Employer
1	Mitchell ATC and/or MHC	46539	\$2,537.52	\$628	\$1,177	\$1,177	\$0	Ruby Tuesday
2	BHW	43428	\$11.00	\$693	\$1,177	\$1,177	\$0	Casa Real
3	Loni Broton or SEMHC	46989	\$1,333.52	\$568	\$1,177	\$1,177	\$0	Apple Tree Children's Ctr
4	Human Service Agency	46756	\$2,784.98	\$867	\$4,708	\$3,531	\$1,177	Hy Vee
5	Lewis & Clarke MHC	46149	\$2,516.08	\$663	\$1,177	\$1,177	\$0	Alltel
6	SESDAC	47279	\$1,880.50	\$710	\$4,708	\$3,531	\$1,177	Hy Vee
7	SESDAC	44841	\$1,770.00	\$710	\$4,708	\$3,531	\$1,177	Hy Vee
8	SEMHC	46833	\$2,700.00	\$775	\$4,708	\$3,531	\$1,177	Hy Vee
			\$15,533.6		\$23,540.	\$18,832.	\$4,708.	

# If Wages were Increase?

Current Wages				Monthly	Increased Wages			
Wage \$	Est \$	Ticket Income		Increased	Wage \$	Est \$	Ticket Income	
Monthly	Ticket	DRS	Provider	Wage	Monthly	Ticket	DRS	Provider
\$628	\$1,177	\$1,177	\$0	\$72	\$700	\$4,708	\$3,531	\$1,177
\$693	\$1,177	\$1,177	\$0	\$7	\$700	\$4,708	\$3,531	\$1,177
\$568	\$1,177	\$1,177	\$0		\$568	\$1,177	\$1,177	\$0
\$867	\$4,708	\$3,531	\$1,177	\$113	\$980	\$21,299	\$11,827	\$9,473
\$663	\$1,177	\$1,177	\$0	\$37	\$700	\$4,708	\$3,531	\$1,177
\$710	\$4,708	\$3,531	\$1,177		\$710	\$4,708	\$3,531	\$1,177
\$710	\$4,708	\$3,531	\$1,177		\$710	\$4,708	\$3,531	\$1,177
\$775	\$4,708	\$3,531	\$1,177		\$775	\$4,708	\$3,531	\$1,177
	\$23,540.00	\$18,832.00	\$4,708.00			\$50,724.00	\$34,189.50	\$16,534.50

# How would a Provider start doing this?

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- Contact Bernie Grimme 605-773-6284 or [Bernie.Grimme@state.sd.us](mailto:Bernie.Grimme@state.sd.us) to enter into an agreement.
- Are you an EN or not?
- Contract Generated for signatures.
- Start Plan for Sustaining Employment on cases.

# Plan for Sustaining Employment

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- Critical document to initiate cost sharing
- Identify Responsibilities
- Identify Support Services
- Signatures & copies
- Agreement can be cancelled

# Resources for Providers

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- <http://www.yourtickettowork.com/training>
- <http://www.socialsecurity.gov/work/aboutticket.html>
- <http://www.cessi.net/ttw/>
- Benefits Specialists Services  
<http://www.bhssc.org/content/services/wipa.htm>



# Questions?

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